

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it."—ISAIAH.

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MINUTES OF A GENERAL COUNCIL HELD IN FARM STREET CHAPEL, BIRMINGHAM, COMMENCING THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1863.

(Continued from page 150.)

The object of these remarks is to awaken you to a sense of your positions, and the requirements which are laid upon you as the servants of God. You should strive to magnify the positions you at present fill, that you may be better qualified for others. Experience will prepare you for greater usefulness. The experience that the First Presidency of the Church, and the rest of the brethren, have had in the positions that you now occupy, have made them the useful men they are. If we ever intend to get into the celestial kingdom, we must possess singleness of purpose and devotion to the Work of God, and labor for its welfare in the same way that they did. In speaking in this way, brethren, I do not wish you to understand that I am dissatisfied with the general policy of the Elders respecting the Mission or any other fund of the Church in these lands; but, I believe, an improvement may be very reasonably effected in this as well as in other directions. At one time, the plan to support the travelling ministry was, that the Tithing, as collected throughout the Conferences, should do so, as well as sup-

port the expenses for halls, &c. This plan was afterwards changed, and the counsel given was, that the Tithing collected from the Saints should not be touched, but should be sent to the Liverpool Office and held subject to the order of President Young as Trustee-in-Trust. When this change was made, it was said by the Elders, that there must be some fund provided for the maintenance of those in the ministry. Presidents Lyman and Rich, and myself, talked the matter over, and, finally, concluded to institute a fund for the purpose of defraying the hall rents and other expenses. This fund was called the Mission Fund. This fund, under the circumstances which surround the people in this Mission, appears absolutely necessary. If the means were not collected from them as it is needed, and it were left to every person to give spontaneously to any and every individual whom they might think needed it, the amounts necessary to meet current expenses would not be forthcoming, and debts and embarrassments would be the result. So far as these objects are concerned, the

Mission Fund is unobjectionable; indeed, situate as the people are now, it is essential. But, if there be anything objectionable about it, it is in the encouragement which it gives to some Elders to lean upon it for the supplying of all their wants. Whoever indulges in a disposition of this kind is directly injured, and is taking a course to stunt himself in his growth as a servant of God. For my own part, I should think that no faithful servant of God would be in the least danger of suffering for the want of anything necessary for his comfort, if he were under the necessity of traveling and preaching without the aid which comes from the Mission Fund. We ought to be exceedingly careful and economical in the handling of means, and when there are funds under our control, they ought to be economically and wisely expended. The Tithing should be attended to by the Elders, and every penny that can be spared from the Mission Fund ought to be turned in that direction, to strengthen the hands of President Young, who, as Trustee-in-Trust, has a great many monetary responsibilities to meet. We know how anxiously and wisely he has, himself, labored to keep up the Church funds, and it is imperatively necessary that we should co-operate with him, that the Work may not be retarded, but may go forward with greater speed, and the independence of Zion be sooner accomplished. Every penny that we can refrain from expending should go for that purpose. I hope the Elders will take these remarks into consideration and act upon them. We must exercise faith, and learn to put our trust in our Father and God. The Lord has said that not even a sparrow should fall to the ground without his notice. Are not the ministering spirits constantly about us? and do they not watch us? If you will read the revelations to Joseph, you will find, that while in the discharge of your duty, you can have all you want. When we do not realize the blessings we require, it is because we have not faith sufficient to call down those blessings. I never felt happier in my life than when I could pack all I had in my valise, and go forth among the people

to preach the Gospel, depending on God and my own exertions for the result. When you are doing your duty, brethren, the Lord will love you and his power will be with you. The temptations which the young brethren have to meet are new to them; and when they are surrounded, as they are in this Mission, with easy circumstances, when compared with going to a new field, they are much more liable to give way to temptation than if they were laboring under difficult circumstances. The inducements which are offered in the world are great and trying,—and, while the young men are not situate so that they are under the necessity of looking to the Almighty for that assistance they would require if they were on other missions, they are liable to give way to them. As I have said before, I want to see you all men of faith,—men who could go to the remotest parts of the earth, and cross the ocean, with faith that your way would be clear before you, although, perhaps, you might not be possessed of those things which are viewed as necessary for you to have. I would like to see you go forth, with sufficient faith in your God, so that you would live and be preserved from evil. This is the way that our brethren, who, in the rise of the Church went forth to proclaim the Gospel to the inhabitants of the earth, have become possessed of the faith they now have. Without that faith they never could have accomplished their missions with such wonderful success. They went forth, as the servants of God, trusting in him for food to eat, for clothing to wear, and for everything necessary to aid them in the accomplishment of the labors to which they had been called. Upon the same principle you can become mighty men also; and I pray that you may be thus blessed, in the name of the Lord Jesus. Amen.

The hymn, "Do what is right," &c., was sung; after which the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Elder Jesse N. Smith.

Saturday, half-past 10 a.m.

The meeting was opened by singing the hymn, "Behold! the harvest wide

tends," &c. Prayer by Elder Henry Walker.

After the hymn, "O, Saints, have you seen," &c., was sung,

President Cannon said—I am happy again having the privilege of meeting with you this morning, and I trust that the Spirit which has been with us may continue to manifest itself in our midst and rest upon us more abundantly. I would be glad to hear from all the brethren present; but I would like to make a remark relative to speaking. I have found, in my experience, that there is a time to stop as well as to commence; for there are seasons when speaking would not be wise; and there are seasons, too, when we are speaking, that it is wise to be brief and stop at a certain time, when the Spirit of God has exercised its power, and when it would be decidedly unwise, and grieving to that Spirit, to prolong our remarks. I have been seldom, if ever, dissatisfied with saying too little. I would like the brethren to be concise in their remarks; not that I wish them to be especially brief, but to exercise sufficient wisdom, when speaking, to know when to stop. It is when you feel first-rate that you should sit down. Brother McCune will speak to us this morning; and I trust that his health, which has of late been impaired, may be restored to him, and that he may have sufficient of the Holy Spirit to strengthen him bodily. May the Lord bless us all. Amen.

Elder Matthew McCune said—Brethren, I would ask for your faith to be exercised in my behalf, that I may be enabled to acquit myself of that which is expected of me. I suppose I am called upon to represent my Conference. I expect I have the smallest Conference in the Mission. It numbers about 130 members. The Scotch are slow to receive the Gospel, as a general thing; it is their national characteristic to be slow; but they seem to be very firm when they do receive and embrace it. I believe that I can say the Conference, over which I have been called to preside, is in good condition. I do not think we have more than about twenty men, altogether, in the Dundee Conference; the chief part of the flock are women.

Many of the Saints have been in the Church from ten to twenty years. There are some who imagine they know all about the Gospel, and have little more to learn; but the majority of them are good, honest people, devoted to the Work and zealous in its propagation. We have, nominally, four Branches; but, actually, only two. I have a great degree of joy in my labors. I have realized the Spirit of God resting upon me when speaking to the people upon the principles of our holy religion. We have, occasionally, the visits of strangers to our meetings; but as it was with Nicodemus, of whom we read in the Bible, they are ashamed to come in the day, so they come at night. I can testify to the remarks of President Cannon to us; and, in my travelling among the Saints and the world, I have experienced their truth. Elder John Sharp, jun., has been of great assistance to me; he has labored faithfully and diligently. May the Almighty bless us. Amen.

Elder Alfred Lee said—Brethren, I can truly say that I feel happy in your midst. It was something very unlooked-for, at one time, for me ever to be in a land so far from home, as I am at the present time. I never supposed that I should be called upon to preach the Gospel to the world, outside of Zion. I firmly believe, however, that there is no occupation which we can be in, that is more calculated to develop and expand our minds, than preaching the principles of the Gospel of Jesus. With my field of labor I am perfectly satisfied. There are many in my field who have been in the Church a great number of years, and they are, generally speaking, those who think they understand everything concerning the Gospel. Still, take the Saints altogether, and you may conclude they are a good set of people. The Branches are not very far apart, which makes it very convenient for me, as I cannot walk a great distance without feeling the effects, to some extent. I take the liberty of going into the houses, shops, and stores, to preach to the people the Gospel of salvation. I can take you into the business-places of large firms in Bradford, where I have left my

testimony, and you will hear individuals admit that the principles and doctrines of the Latter-day Saints are wonderful. I have warned them of the judgments which are coming to pass. I have told them, that not only will America suffer, but other nations, who may, at the present, be dwelling in peace and prosperity, will suffer from the ravages of war and pestilence. I have said to them—"You will cease to have peace in this land, although you think otherwise." I know that the instructions which have been given, during our Council, are just as applicable to the old men as the young men. Brother Orson Hyde told us, before we came on our missions, that we should be in the midst of wars and pestilence; yet, if we remained true to our covenants, not one of us should be harmed. I pray that God will preserve and bless us continually. Amen.

Elder William Willes said—Brethren, I esteem it a great privilege to represent the Land's-End Conference on this occasion. The majority of the people in that Conference are women, as in the case of brother M'Cune's Conference. Brother M'Cune's Conference and mine may be considered twin Conferences. I have no reason to be dissatisfied with my field of labor. Our meetings are very well attended, and it is very rarely that they are disturbed. The police are very strict in Devonport and Plymouth, on account of the number of sailors and soldiers there. We have a snug little council of Elders, Priests, Teachers and Deacons, and they are united and diligent in all their duties. Elder John L. Dolten and myself are treated very kindly, by both Saints and strangers; and the Priesthood are prompt in carrying out the counsels that we deem necessary to give them from time to time. Since I went to that Conference there have been 21 persons baptized. For the last ten or twelve years the Saints have met in very small places for worship; so I counselled with brother Halliday upon the propriety of getting another and more commodious room, in Devonport, to which place we might invite the people to come and hear the principles of the Gospel expounded. We have, there-

fore, hired the Temperance Hall, in which we have, on various occasions, given lectures upon our doctrines. We have had remarkably good attendance at each of our meetings, and excellent order has been observed by those who have favored us with their presence. My individual labors have been principally confined to the town of Devonport. I have visited King-bridge—a place where no Elder, it is said, had preached before. The Lord has blessed my labors there. One of the brethren informed me that the people want me back, and have offered to pay my expenses. I have never wanted a bed, or food to eat, and very often I have had money given me, while travelling in my field of labor. The people are exceedingly hospitable and kind, and, almost universally, I have met with friends and willing auditors to the message of salvation which I bore. So far as depending upon the Mission Fund is concerned, I can say that I have never done so. My dependence has been placed in my heavenly Father. I have been in the Church seventeen or eighteen years, and during that period I have ever felt to do all I could to build up the kingdom of God upon the earth, without regard to personal considerations. I came into the Church for the love of the Gospel, and the Lord knows it. May the Lord bless you and me, brethren, in my prayer. Amen.

Elder Willes sang his song, "The city I love so well," &c., after which

Elder Frederick W. Cox said—I never got up to speak in my life without feeling a degree of embarrassment. When I arise before a congregation, I feel the great necessity of being in possession of the Spirit of the Lord. I have been in England about six months, during which time I have labored in the Preston Conference. I can say I am quite satisfied with my field of labor, and with the Saints among whom I have labored. There have been many there, from Zion, of whom the Saints speak in the highest praise, and whom they love for the upright and equitable course which they pursued in their midst. Brother Warren S. Snow is very warmly remembered by the Saints. I have enjoyed myself there, and I always

expect to do so, as long as I do my duty. I was highly gratified with the representation of the field in which I am interested, by Elder Taylor. Preston is feeling the ill-effects of the present distressed condition of the manufacturing districts, and the Saints have not escaped the general poverty which prevails. Many are dependent on the charity of the wealthy portions of the community. My sympathies have been roused greatly on behalf of the impoverished class in Preston and vicinity; and I have taught them to turn to the Lord their God, and be baptized for the remission of their sins. I have preached the word of the Lord according to the spirit which was in me, and he has blessed me, and my exertions have been crowned with success. May the Lord bless us all, is my prayer. Amen.

Elder Henson Walker said—I am thankful, brethren, for the privilege of standing before you at this time. I presume many of you may, to some extent, understand my feelings while standing before you. I have been in the Church twenty-five years, and this is the first time I have been on a mission. I have been with the people who have gathered themselves together, both in Nauvoo and the mountains, all the time, and have striven to

do the best I could to build up the kingdom of God. It is a pleasure to me to be here. I have had the testimony of the Spirit since I have been on this mission, more than I ever have had before. I have had great happiness in my labors in Cheltenham, and the Branches comprising that Conference. I have found some not as good Saints as I would like them to be; still I felt like opening the door of salvation to them, and trying to gather them to Zion, where they could walk in the ways of the Lord, if they were desirous of doing so. I have endeavored to teach them the value of paying their Tithing, and have shown them that great benefits would be derived by doing so. A great many of them are, I am glad to say, living in the practice of this law. Brother Franklin Merrill has labored with me in the Cheltenham Conference with much diligence and zeal. I desire to do good, that I may go home perfectly free, and with the blessings of my Father in heaven and of my brethren. May God bless the young and old, and all the faithful. Amen.

The hymn, "The Spirit of God like a fire is burning," &c., was sung; after which the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Elder Miles P. Romney.

THE PRUNING.

BY ELDER M. F. FARNSWORTH.

At certain periods in the history of the Church of God, it has been necessary to resort to the use of the pruning knife, that the withered branches, and those who have become corrupt in heart, may be severed from the tree, thereby giving the sap a better chance to flow to every part and portion of the tree that contains life. When the good seed was sown, the Enemy came and sowed the tares; hence, our Savior said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up," for "The angels shall come forth and sever the wicked from the just." The preaching of the word of God by his servants is followed closely by the Adversary, who endeavors to destroy any good impression or feeling that may be engendered thereby, by instilling various sentiments which, if indulged in, cause a feeling of carelessness or neglect to become apparent, and persons in possession of this spirit soon get lulled to sleep, and are exposed to any sudden event that would uproot them, for they know not the day of their visitation. Again, others join the Church from other motives than that of seeking to lead a life of righteousness; hence the necessity of *pruning*, that they may be shown forth in their true colors, so that they may not be

enabled to lead off any who may be weak in faith. But this is not all, for every Latter-day Saint has been taught to shun the very appearance of evil, that "when righteousness is laid to the line and judgment to the plummet," and persons are weighed, they will not be found wanting. Every person should see the necessity of pruning themselves, although, in cases of perfection, some cannot see where to commence.

There are many persons in this land that have been in the Church for a number of years, and some of them have become satisfied that their salvation is secure; but they neither see nor understand the signs of the times. The pruning is a forerunner—perhaps telling of some important movement to take place in the history of the people of God. Men gather fishes of all kinds, and they separate the bad from the good; so it is in the kingdom. Bad men and women are not wanted; but those who are good, who desire to serve God and follow him through good and evil report, are the kind that are wanted; none others need try, for the sieve will let them through. Not long since a reformation was preached throughout the entire organization of the Church of God, and the Saints went forward and renewed their covenants. Now, every person who has violated any of these covenants is under condemnation, and, unless they repent, the Evil One will get power over them. The "pruning" is necessary in these cases, and in all cases of contention, lying, back-biting, &c. When a man or woman becomes overburthened with self-justification, he or she is in great need of pruning. "Let him that thinketh he standeth,

take heed lest he fall," says the Apostle, and it is a true text; and as we are not called upon to renew our covenants by baptism, let us humble ourselves before the Lord, repenting in sackcloth and ashes if necessary, that we may regain the spirit of our religion. But first go and make restitution to those that have been wronged, and remove every obstacle that would prevent a free enjoyment of this Spirit, and then we can call upon our Father in heaven aright, and he will bless us.

This course is the more necessary, that a living faith may be cultivated. The testimony of Jesus can only be retained by obedience to every counsel or commandment of God; and, unless we observe the precepts that are taught us, our faith wanes, we become dry as the chaff of the threshing-floor, and the first little puff of wind that comes will blow us away. As the kingdom of God advances, broken covenants will not be passed over lightly, or as a thing of no consequence; but, on the contrary, people will be called upon to pay their vows to the Most High; and, I am convinced, that it is an easier matter to pay them here, than to wait and go to that place where we shall be kept until we pay the "uttermost farthing." Therefore, arouse O! Israel, and trim your lamps, that their light may show you how to commence pruning, that you may see the necessity of putting away everything that is contrary to the Gospel of Christ. And by putting on the whole armor of righteousness, and by a strict observance of the "Mormon Creed," we shall find that we have plenty to do to prune ourselves and to prepare for the events that await us in the future.

HISTORY OF BRIGHAM YOUNG.

(Continued from page 152.)

1842
November 9.—Attended City Council, and, with Elders John Taylor and Orson Spencer, was appointed a committee to draft a bill for an ordinance to regulate writs of *habeas corpus*, and the mode of procedure in such cases.

—10 and 12.—Attended adjourned meetings of the City Council.

—14.—Attended City Council, when an ordinance was passed regulating the procedure on writs of *habeas corpus*.

—21.—I met with the Twelve at Elder Kimball's. We unanimously decided that the printing of the *Millennial Star* and other Church publications cease on the return of Elder Parley P. Pratt from England, and I wrote a letter to that effect to the editor of the *Star*.

—26.—I was suddenly attacked with a slight fit of apoplexy. Next morning I felt quite comfortable; but in the evening, at the same hour that I had the fit the day before, I was attacked with the most violent fever I ever experienced. The Prophet Joseph and Elder Willard Richards visited and administered unto me; the Prophet prophesied that I should live and recover from my sickness. He sat by me for six hours, and directed my attendants what to do for me. In about thirty hours from the time of my being attacked by the fever, the skin began to peel from my body, and I was skinned all over. I desired to be baptized in the river, but it was not until the 14th day that brother Joseph would give his consent for me to be showered with cold water, when my fever began to break, and it left me on the 18th day. I laid upon my back, and was not turned upon my side for eighteen days.

I laid in a log-house, which was rather open; it was so very cold during my sickness, that brother Isaac Decker, my attendant, froze his fingers and toes while fanning me, with boots, greatcoat and mittens on, and with a fire in the house, from which I was shielded by a blanket.

When the fever left me on the 18th day, I was bolstered up in my chair, but was so near gone that I could not close my eyes, which were set in my head—my chin dropped down and my breath stopped. My wife, seeing my situation, threw some cold water in my face; that having no effect, she dashed a handful of strong camphor into my face and eyes, which I did not feel in the least, neither did I move a muscle. She then held my nostrils between her thumb and finger, and placing her mouth directly over mine, blew into my lungs until she filled them with air. This set my lungs in motion, and I again began to breathe. While this was going on I was per-

fectly conscious of all that was passing around me; my spirit was as vivid as it ever was in my life, but I had no feeling in my body.

January 11, 1843.—The Quorum of the Twelve wrote a proclamation to the Saints, to observe the 17th inst. as a day of humiliation, fasting, prayer and thanksgiving for the great blessings which our heavenly Father has conferred on us in the deliverance of our beloved President, Joseph Smith, who has been honorably discharged from his arrest under the Missouri writ by the U.S. District Court of Illinois; Judge Pope presiding.

—18.—I had the pleasure of attending a feast, to which brother Joseph had invited his friends, as a memento of his release from the Missouri writ by the U. S. District Court of Illinois. This was the first time that I had been out of my house since my sickness.

—20.—I attended Council with the Prophet and the Twelve at my house, in regard to Orson Pratt, who had confessed his sins and manifested deep repentance, which resulted in his baptism and re-ordination, by the Prophet, to his former standing in the Quorum of the Twelve. Brother Joseph Smith said that he would find another place for brother Amasa Lyman.

February 6. — I was re-elected a member of the City Council.

—7.—There was a Council of the Twelve at my house. Brother Joseph Smith attended and gave us instructions.

—10.—Met with the Twelve and the Prophet at his house.

—18.—Wrote a letter to the Branch of the Church at La Harpe.

—24.—Spent the day with the Prophet on business.

March 1.—Wrote a letter to the Branch of the Church at Ramus, instructing them in relation to their privileges and duties in sustaining the Prophet of God, while he was bringing forth revelations to the Church, translating and attending to history.

—2.—Brother O. Hyde and I spent the day at Elder Kimball's, with our wives.

—5 (Sunday). — Attended meeting

at father Alley's; Elder Kimball preached.

—11.—I started at 9 a.m., in company with the Prophet Joseph, for Ramus.

—12 (Sunday).—Joseph preached in the morning, and I in the afternoon.

—13.—Attended a Church meeting, Stald at brother B. F. Johnson's.

—14.—Returned home in a severe snow storm.

—28.—I visited Elder George A. Smith, who was sick.

(To be continued.)

193

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

SATURDAY, MARCH 13, 1864.

EMIGRATION DEPOSITS, ETC.

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✓ We have received confirmatory intelligence from President Young respecting his and the brethren's intention to send down teams, this season, from Great Salt Lake City to Florence, to carry up the emigrating Saints. We wish to learn from the Elders what number will be likely to emigrate from the different Conferences. This, each Conference President can furnish quicker than by sending it through his District President, and, as time is an object at the present, we wish to save it as much as possible. We trust there will not be a moment's delay, on the part of the Elders, in furnishing us with this information.

We are, also, prepared now to receive the names and deposits of those intending to emigrate; also, the orders for oxen, wagons, &c., with the money necessary for their purchase, so that we may be prepared to give the necessary instructions, in a timely manner, to the Elders who will be acting as Agents for the Emigration on the other side. The notice which we gave the Elders, upon these subjects, at the General Council, has, doubtless, caused them to take the proper steps to fully prepare themselves for this call which we now make upon them. Promptitude and despatch are qualities which are now essentially needed, as we are entering upon the serious business of the Emigration.

We have before stated, that it is highly important that every Elder, who is laboring in the ministry, should take especial pains to make himself thoroughly familiar with all the details of the business connected with the emigration of the people, as a little carelessness, or ignorance, on their part, is a cause of embarrassment to themselves, and very harrassing to us and the clerks in the Office. There has been so much written upon all the duties connected with this business, that ignorance, on the part of the Elders, is entirely inexcusable. The lack of experience, on their part, can be covered by their increased diligence and attention to their duties and what is written respecting them. The diligent man, in the business of the Emigration, as in every other business, will avoid a great many blunders and difficulties, embarrassing to himself and

others with whom he does business, which the careless and dilatory man will be apt to fall into. The mind of the former will be led to contemplate his duties, and how he can best discharge them, and he will seek unto his God for the aid which he requires, while the latter will only think about them as he is compelled to do, by their pressing nature.

President Young advises us that it is probable fewer teams will be sent down this season than last. This should be borne in mind by the Saints in preparing for emigration, and makes our counsel on the subject of luggage, in the editorial article of No. 8 of the current volume of the *STAR*, very appropriate. We have not yet been advised respecting the arrangements that will be made for provisions; but it is certain that provisions will have to be hauled from Florence, to supply the Emigration, and not, as heretofore, be brought from the Valley and deposited at points along the route. This will, of course, lessen the capacity of the teams for hauling luggage, and will make it imperatively necessary that not a single pound should be taken by the Saints, who are emigrating from this country, that can be dispensed with. This matter must be kept in mind by the Elders and Saints.

We have received some inquiries from one of the Elders, upon the subject of Emigration, which we think better to answer in this conjunction, as, by so doing, the necessity of answering similar questions in private may be obviated. First, "What time do you think the last ship this season will leave?" If it should be possible to obtain suitable ships to suit our convenience, we would like to send the first ship off by the 20th of April, and the last by the 15th of May. Upon this, however, we cannot calculate confidently to a few days, as ships cannot be obtained always to suit our exact convenience; and the state of the tide has also to be consulted in Liverpool. Second, "At what time will a ship sail from London?" Upon this point we cannot speak in the least definitely; indeed, we are not fully certain that a ship will be sent from London this season; but if we find that it should be convenient, and we can obtain a suitable vessel, we may send one from that port. Third, "Have you, or do you intend to make any arrangement about tinware?" All articles of tinware can be obtained, at satisfactory prices, from the house with which we have done business for several years; and we should advise the Saints to defer purchasing their tinware until they reach here. Should a ship sail from London, the same party can furnish tinware there also. Fourth, "What is the probable increase of price for second cabin berths?" We have usually charged ten shillings per adult. In case any should like to have second cabin berths, we should be glad to receive notice beforehand. Fifth, "Must we draw the money for the entire journey to Florence, as last year?" Yes.)

✓ **SANDWICH ISLANDS' MISSION.**—By a letter from President Young, under date of January 28th, we are informed that "Elders Lorenzo Snow, Ezra T. Benson, W. W. Cluff and Alma L. Smith, have been selected to take a mission to the Sandwich Islands—to start about the 1st March—and it is designed to select, during the April Conference, a few more for that Mission." We are glad to hear that those Islands are to be revisited by the Elders, and that efforts are to be made to put matters to rights on those lands. We doubt not that their presence will be hailed with delight, and the Saints there will extend to them a hearty welcome in their rude way. The Sandwich Islanders

are a people who received the Gospel with great readiness and enthusiasm. They have manifested very great faith, and we have witnessed some very remarkable manifestations of the power of God in their midst. We never saw more of the Spirit of God poured out among any people, away from Zion, than we have experienced in their midst. Their laws have prohibited emigration, and the Saints, therefore, have been unable to gather to Zion. A gathering place was selected on one of the Islands, where attempts were made, with more or less success, to form a colony. They have had a great many difficulties to contend with, and have been, for a number of years, deprived of the society of experienced Elders. It is, doubtless, with a view to the settlement of difficulties which have arisen in their midst, and for the purpose of organizing matters upon a proper basis, that two of the Twelve Apostles, and the two Elders above-named, who have been there before, and are familiar with the language, have been selected. Our past labors in those lands—it having been our privilege to be the first to preach the Gospel in that language, in this dispensation, and, also, to translate the Book of Mormon—causes us to feel a deep interest in the welfare of that Mission and people; and the Elders have our faith and heartfelt prayers for their success in fulfilling every duty assigned unto them.) X

ABSTRACT OF CORRESPONDENCE.

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AMERICA. ✕ We take pleasure in making the following extracts from a recent letter which we have received from President Brigham Young:—"On the 9th and 10th inst., myself, Presidents Kimball and Wells, and several of your Quorum and of the home missionaries, held very interesting meetings in the new meeting-house in Farmington, appointed for the purpose of dedicating it. At the close of the meetings my sons Joseph A. and Brigham, jun., my nephew Joseph W. and brother William H. Folsom, started on a preaching tour as far north as Franklin, and I am informed that they are holding many meetings, and speaking much to the edification of the brethren. Brigham, jun., returned yesterday in good health and spirits. The Utah diggers, on the bench east of the City, are the meanest lot of diggers that I have yet heard of, for after ransacking the country from side to side, in the mountains, in the canyons, among the hills, everywhere, trying to hire Indians and whites to tell them what they know about gold in Utah, and finding none, they still keep crying, printing and writing gold, gold, gold in abundance in Utah, and that, too, when they cannot so much as provide themselves with bread without depending upon the community for it. Bishop Sharp, notwithstanding they rejected his bid to furnish them with flour, has, at my request, for sometime been keeping them in breadstuff, and will endeavor to do so as far as possible; but that extra amount being supplied causes wheat and flour to be rather high priced, the latter selling for from \$12 to \$14 in legal tenders, and still the Utah diggers on the bench, the ones we are supplying with flour, are using every effort to induce an influx of poor people to a region where they have not only found no gold, but where they themselves are dependent for supplies. My health is good, as is also that of the people generally. President Kimball's

health is about as usual, and President Wells' is so much improved that he was able to preside in the Legislative Council during its late session, and visits my office daily."

AMERICA.—We have received the following from Elder William H. Perkes, late of this office, being extracts from a letter dated January 11th, at Great Salt Lake City:—"I found Captain Williams (commander of the ship *Cynosure*) a kind and good-hearted man, constantly looking to the comfort of his passengers, and not permitting either his officers or men to abuse them in any way whatever. The railway trip I did not enjoy so well as the sea passage, as the weather was close and oppressive. The trip up the Missouri River, notwithstanding the warm weather, was enjoyable, because of the beautiful scenery. On reaching Florence I joined Captain S. White's Church train, and made arrangements to mess with brother Sands and family during the journey. We started from the camp-ground on the 15th of August, after waiting two weeks for our turn of organization, &c. The trip over the plains improved my health more than any other part of the journey. It seemed to give me a new lease of life and energy. To walk 15 or 20 miles in a day was a very common thing with me. We reached Laramie on the 14th of September. The other half of the journey we accomplished by the 15th of October, the whole of the journey having taken us sixty-two days, with the loss of about ten head of cattle, five of which were struck with lightning at the commencement of our journey. Six persons died on the journey. On arriving in the city I was warmly received by my father and family, whom I found in comfortable circumstances. I succeeded, a few days after my arrival, in obtaining a situation in a store as a book-keeper. * * * All is quiet in the City; plenty of frost and snow. Provisions are very high, in consequence of heavy supplies having to be furnished to the miners. Flour is \$12 per 100 lbs., and beef 12½ cents per pound, pork, 30 cents, and other things in proportion. The Legislature is now in session. It is probable that a company will be formed next spring for the manufacture of iron. A silver and lead mine is being worked in the west mountains."

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.—Elder Charles S. Kimball writes from Willenhall, on the 19th ult., as follows:—"I realize that the Lord is merciful to me and all his servants and Saints who have a desire to keep his commandments. I, for one, have a great desire to fulfil the mission on which I have been sent by the servants of the Most High God. So far, I have enjoyed myself in laboring with brother John M. Kay. I pray that the Lord will ever give me a humble and obedient spirit, so that I may always value the good counsels of those over me. It is an old saying, but a very true one, that "we cannot appreciate the sweet until we have tasted the bitter." I want, by the experience of this mission, to improve, and not only here, but when I return home. I can then enjoy, to a greater extent than heretofore, those blessings and privileges which I possess as a member of the Church and kingdom of God. I realize that I am improving; but my progress is so slow that I can scarcely perceive it. The world, however, was not made in a day, nor do I expect that I will attain to perfection, or accomplish all there is to be done, in that space of time. I baptized two persons last week, and there is a probability of more embracing the Gospel very shortly. Our meetings are well attended by strangers. The Saints seem to enjoy the spirit of their religion, and manifest great desire to go home to Zion. Brother P. C. Neilson is with me and is

learning the English language very fast. I feel to sympathize with him, and aid him all I can to acquire the language, for I would like to do to him as I would like him to do to me under like circumstances."

CORRESPONDENCE.

AMERICA.

Council Chamber, G. S. L., U. T., }
January 17th, 1864. }

President George Q. Cannon.

Dear Brother,—I have been promising a long time to write to you, and almost feel ashamed that I have neglected it so long; but when I assure you that I have not been at home above eight days, at one time, since my return from Denmark, I trust you will excuse me.

Everything of a public character seems to be prospering here, as usual; and, I have heard it remarked, that there has been less disturbance here, in the City, this winter, than for a number of years past. The winter, for the last month or six weeks, has been quite severe, and the snow has been very deep. Provender and grain, of all kinds, demand a high cash price.

There is a great excitement here, among the outsiders, about the gold and silver mines that are supposed to exist in these mountains. In the first number of the paper published at Camp Douglas there was a proclamation, inviting *all the world* to come and develop the *rich mineral* resources of Utah! so we may expect to have a heavy flood of immigration here next spring, seeking for the *precious dust* so abundant (?) in this Territory.

The *Deseret News* is not being published at present, for the want of paper; the mill being out of repair, they are not able to furnish the paper.

Quite a number of Elders were appointed last Fall as Home Missionaries, to travel through the settlements and teach the "spiritual things of the kingdom," and to remind the Saints of their first love for the Gospel. Brother Knud Peterson, and myself were appointed to labor among the Scandinavian Saints in the southern settlements. We held twenty-six meetings

in Utah, Juab and Sanpete counties, and often had congregations of five or six hundred to preach to. We found the Scandinavian Saints feeling first-rate as a general thing; and I was much pleased to find them so comfortably and well situated; much better situated than I expected to find them. Many of them have fine houses and good barns and stables, and, generally, plenty of grain and provisions. They were much pleased to think that President Young would send Elders to them, who could talk to them in their own language. Since I returned from my Home Mission I have been here in this City, acting as messenger in the Council of the Utah Legislature, which is now in session. Quite a considerable amount of business has been done during the Legislative session.

I had been home but a short time when I went down to the cotton country, to see Miss Ann Whipple, with whom I was engaged before I left for Europe, and finding her as I had reason to expect, we were married on the 24th of October last, in Pine Valley, Washington Co., and I returned with her to Provo, where I expect to make my home for the present.

May the Lord bless and prosper you, brother Cannon, and all the Elders who are laboring for the advancement of the cause of Truth, is my prayer.

Remember me kindly to all the brethren in the Office.

Most respectfully,
WM. W. CLUFF.

ENGLAND.

CHELTENHAM CONFERENCE.

Cheltenham, Feb. 5, 1864.

President Cannon.

Dear Brother,—Having time and convenience for writing, and knowing that you are ever pleased to hear from those laboring in the ministry, I take

pleasure in penning a few lines, that you may have an idea of my present situation and labors. I can truly say, my heart rejoices in the Work of the Lord. The more I understand of its principles, the more I love them, and the greater necessity I see of their being reduced to practice, by the Saints, that they may become the happy recipients of those blessings which the Almighty is desirous of pouring out upon the faithful. Sometimes I am led to the conclusion that we, as a people, do not *fully* appreciate the blessings and privileges we are in the enjoyment of. What a glorious thought, that we belong to the great Latter-day kingdom now established upon the earth, no more to be thrown down! and that, though all the powers of earth were to strive to overthrow it, it will triumph. It is delightful to think that, if we remain faithful to our covenants, we are sure of an exaltation in the eternal worlds. These things encourage me to press on in the good Work, and cause my heart to swell with unbounded gratitude to my heavenly Father. I do not think that the Gospel was ever dearer to me than at present; in fact, when in the peaceful Valleys of the far west, I did not realize its value and importance as I do to-day. I had never seen the opposing influences so much as I have since I have been here. But, since I have come into the midst of the world, I have seen oppression, discontent, division, vice and wickedness; so common, too, are these things in the world, that they are to be felt in almost every city, town and village. A comparison of this condition of things in the world, with that of Utah, where freedom, unity and chastity prevail, convinces me of the benefits which the Gospel confers upon society. It shows to my mind that its principles are calculated to restore justice, peace and virtue to the earth, and make it a fit habitation for Jesus and his obedient people.

Since I arrived in these lands, I have travelled in the Manchester and London Conferences. While travelling in those places I enjoyed my labors much; the Saints have everywhere treated me with kindness; and my prayer is, that God may bless them,

together with all faithful Saints. Since my appointment to this part of the vineyard, I have endeavored to make myself acquainted with the business pertaining to the Conference. Elder Holman and myself have visited every Branch in this Conference. We carried with us the books, in order to get a correct audit, and I am happy to say we have succeeded. We had to deal with several members of the Church, on our way through the Conference, for unchristianlike conduct.

We are taking steps to liberate this Conference from its debts, and I believe, by the blessing of the Almighty, that we will succeed in our efforts. I fully believe good can be done here. Our meetings in Cheltenham are, generally, very well attended by strangers, most of whom pay good attention to the words of the Elders. The Work is onward, and will overcome the opposition we have to contend with from time to time. We have lately baptized several, and many more have given in their names for baptism. The prospects for the future are encouraging. Brother Dolten is one with me in endeavoring to roll forth the Work.

May God bless you, is the prayer of your brother in the Truth,
MILES P. ROMNEY.

SHEFFIELD CONFERENCE.

Sheffield, Feb. 18th, 1864.

President Cannon.

Dear Brother,—I avail myself (for the first time since I was called into the ministry) of the privilege of addressing to you a few lines. That you may know how my time has been occupied since I received my first appointment, which directed me to labor in the Sheffield District, under the direction of Elder Joseph Bull.

I labored in the Leeds Conference for a period of six weeks; and, although my stay amongst the Saints there was short, I formed a very agreeable, and, I trust, lasting acquaintance with many who treated me with a kindness which I hope I shall not soon forget. After the arrival of Elder G. Swan I left for the Hull Conference, which was to be the field where, for my time, I was to exercise my calling as an

servant of God. My labors among the people of that Conference, will, I believe, ever be a fruitful source of pleasing reflection to me.

For some time before, I had been looking forward with fond anticipation to the time when the General Council would be held at Birmingham, and indulging in the hope of associating with my brethren from the valleys of the mountains, and in listening to the words of intelligence which might flow from the lips of the living priesthood of God; and my hopes and expectations were far more than realised, for I assuredly enjoyed a glorious and happy time at the Council. When I embraced the Gospel I felt as if I would go almost to any distance to see a servant of God, who had received the authority of heaven. And I am thankful that I still, to a very great extent, retain that feeling. You may, perhaps, in some degree imagine, from this, the joyful feelings I had when associating with my brethren. I trust that the acquaintances I formed there will not be of a transient nature. I hope I shall be enabled, by the assistance of the Spirit of God, to faithfully carry out the instructions there given. I feel fully satisfied, that all who will do so, will increase in power with God and man, and will have ability to accomplish that for which they have been sent forth into the world to accomplish.

The word of the Lord, as given through his servants, has proved efficacious in saving the people in all ages, when it has been received by them. If the antediluvians had accepted the message delivered unto them by Noah, they would have escaped the calamity by which they were overwhelmed and destroyed. The inhabitants of Nineveh were saved by their reception of the word of God, as given through the Prophet Jonah. And the word of the Lord, as taught by his servants, will be as effectual in saving men and women now as it ever was.

I left Birmingham, for Sheffield, on the 7th of January, in company with Elders H. C. Fowler and J. Hansen. In consequence of Elder Fowler having immediately to leave for his new field of labor, he was unable to accompany me to any extent, round the Conference. I did not, however, experience so much difficulty in introducing

myself to the Saints, as I naturally supposed I would. I soon discovered that I had been thrown amongst a good, warm-hearted people, who treated me, on every hand, with the greatest kindness, and who, judging from what I have observed, are, generally speaking, endeavoring to live the religion of our Savior. Of course, as in other Conferences, there are exceptions to this rule. I find some who are cold and lukewarm, and who, through being negligent in the performance of their duties, have lost the spirit of the Gospel. I am pleased to be able to state, when compared with the general condition of the Conference, these exceptions sink into comparative insignificance.

Many of the Saints are paying their Tithing, and those who are doing so are experiencing the blessings of the Almighty, both temporally and spiritually. I have noticed that those who obey this law of the Gospel feel better, are more ready to do what is required at their hands, and have a more lively interest in the Work of God; their circumstances, too, as a general rule, become improved.

Since I have been in this Conference I have been busily engaged in visiting the Saints at their homes in the different Branches; and, whilst thus employed, I have enjoyed myself excellently. Elder Hansen, from Denmark, has been with me all the time. He feels well; and, considering the short time he has been in England, I think he has progressed very fairly in acquiring the English language. He can now talk a little in meetings, and the Saints are able to understand, mostly, what he says. Elder C. M. Gillet has been round the Conference with me, and I have no doubt but his visits and the good counsels given by him, will have a good effect.

On Sunday, the 14th inst., we had a visit, at Sheffield, from Elder Joseph Bull. We enjoyed a good time in meeting with the Saints of that Branch. The instructions given on the occasion, if practically applied, will prove beneficial to those who heard them.

With kind love, and good wishes for your continued prosperity, in which brother Hansen joins, I am, your brother in the Gospel,

JOHN NICHOLSON.

SUMMARY OF NEWS.

FRANCE.—The *Figie de Cherbourg* asserts that the Minister of Marine has sent orders for filling up the crews of the iron-clad vessels before the 15th of March, and the arming of those vessels within the shortest possible notice.

DENMARK.—It is said that there is a complete understanding between the two great German Powers on the Danish question. The Emperor Francis Joseph has expressed to General Manteuffel his approval of the policy of Prussia, and his satisfaction that the friendly relations between the Cabinets of Vienna and Berlin are so fully re-established. This understanding guarantees the energetic continuation of the policy which the two great powers consider it right to pursue towards Denmark. It is, therefore, of minor importance whether the Conference takes place or not. Gen. Gerlach has been entrusted with the command-in-chief of the army in place of General de Meza, who has been definitely dismissed. On the 1st inst. a squadron of Danish dragoons encountered two squadrons of the enemy's hussars between Varde and Fredericia. The loss of the former in the engagement amounted to nine men, wounded and missing. They captured, however, one officer, a surgeon, and 28 hussars.

POLAND.—Most disquieting accounts have been circulated respecting affairs in Galicia. It is supposed that a portion of the Galician population has completely fallen under the sway of that mysterious power which is named the "National Polish Government." It is confidently said that a rising against the Austrian Government is preparing in Galicia. On the morning of the 22nd ultimo, 1,500 insurgents, under the command of Bossack, having occupied the town of Opatow, in the Government of Radom, were attacked by a considerable Russian force. The engagement lasted the whole day. The Poles, who had barricaded themselves in the houses, inflicted a heavy loss upon the Russians. The latter received considerable reinforcements towards the evening, when the Poles retreated in good order, under cover of the night, to the forest of St. Croix. Forty houses in the town were reduced to ashes.

AMERICA.—Washington despatches state that General Lee, having been reinforced by 10,000 men, intends opening the spring campaign by a gigantic raid through Pennsylvania, and simultaneous movements of a similar nature are to be made into Ohio and on the line of the Virginia and Tennessee river. President Davis, in an address to the army, thanks the troops for their speedy enlistment, and assures them of final triumph in the coming struggle. Chattanooga news is conflicting. Johnston's entire force is stated to be at Dalton, Georgia. On the other hand it is averred that he has left to form a junction with Longstreet, who was at Strawberry Plains with 55,000 men and sixteen batteries, with a view of attacking Grant at Chattanooga. President Davis has signed a bill prohibiting the exportation of cotton, sugar, and other luxuries, except by special license. The *New York Herald* asserts that President Lincoln will issue a proclamation of universal emancipation, including the Border States, on the 22nd inst. General Banks has issued an order at New Orleans, stating that it is the people's duty to assist in restoring the civil government. Indifference will be treated as a crime. Men refusing to defend their country with the ballot box or cartridge box, have no claim to the benefits of liberty. The *New York* journals consider this equivalent to compulsory voting. General Sherman occupied Jackson, Mississippi, on the 5th ult., and has advanced to Brandon. A portion of his troops occupied Yazoo City on the same day. One hundred and ten Federal officers, who had escaped from Richmond prison, have arrived at Fort Monroe. Several Republican members of Congress have denounced President Lincoln's policy of establishing State Governments, under the amnesty proclamation, as illegal. General Thomas and a party of officers who arrived at Chattanooga from Knoxville on the 18th ult., represent Longstreet as in full retreat before the advance of the Federal forces which had moved out to attack him.